



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2023

No. 19

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### RECOGNIZING FIRE CAPTAIN KIRK MITCHELL

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Fire Captain Kirk Mitchell and to thank him for his service to our country and to our community.

From becoming a volunteer firefighter at the age of 16 to joining the United States Marine Corps at the age of 18, Kirk Mitchell set out early in life to care for those in need of help and to protect those who could not protect themselves.

Kirk would go on to work as an EMT, a public safety instructor, and an emergency management officer.

His extensive work took him from California to Puerto Rico to aid those who had been affected by wildfires and floods.

Throughout all of his work, Captain Mitchell has maintained a connection with Blair County, Pennsylvania, serving as a steadfast member of the Altoona Fire Department.

Kirk's commitment to protecting lives and supporting his fellow fire-

fighters has been a hallmark of his wonderful career.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I wish Kirk every continued success.

### SOCIALIST POLICIES HAVE NO PLACE IN OUR SOCIETY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it was 34 years ago that the Iron Curtain finally fell, revealing to the world the horrible truths of socialism and providing a stark contrast between the United States and the enemies who wish to do us harm.

In the Capitol rotunda, we keep a warning of the dangers of socialism. A piece of the Berlin Wall is embedded in the base of the statue of President Ronald Reagan who championed the work of ending socialism around the world.

From Venezuela to the Soviet Union, from Fidel Castro in Cuba to Kim Jong-un in North Korea, every attempt to build a socialist or communist society has only led to ruin.

Socialism is a tyranny that we can no longer afford to ignore.

As this administration continues to pick winners and losers in our economy and as President Biden continues to cancel debts for liberal elites on the backs of working Americans, it is time for us to clearly state that socialist policies have no place in our democracy. It is time for our country to return to the ideals of our Founding Fathers.

Our country was built on the belief that we are all created with unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These rights can only be fulfilled if we live in a Nation, a Nation that is truly free. We must condemn socialism in all of its forms.

It was President Reagan who once said: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for and protected."

We cannot afford to let our country be governed by socialist policies. We must protect our freedoms, and we must protect our liberties at all costs.

### A REAL CASE OF UNFAIRNESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to remember and honor twin sisters Katrina and Leslie. Their story is one of tragedy, as they both are resting with our maker in heaven. Their memories have and shall continue to be shared with their loved ones.

Katrina and Leslie were born with disabilities. As they were growing up, they required a caretaker to address their basic needs.

These twins were loveable and stole the hearts of those they met. Katrina and Leslie were also emotionally strong. They wanted to be raised like other kids but knew that their conditions were permanent and they wouldn't be able to participate in sports, attend a prom, or get a job.

They accepted the reality of their life, but they knew they had each other, and they had a loving family. The two were living in the State of Pennsylvania and received Supplemental Security Income, SSI, benefits that helped their caretaker purchase necessities.

Unfortunately, their caretaker, who was their mother, passed away unexpectedly. Leslie and Katrina once again found themselves enduring another unbearable hardship. Because of their conditions and the undertaking it would require to care for not one but two disabled individuals, the sisters were separated.

Leslie stayed in the State of Pennsylvania and continued to receive SSI benefits. Katrina was taken in by her

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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mom's sister, who is married to my childhood friend, Dr. John Fegurgur. The couple brought her to Guam, and within 30 days of leaving Pennsylvania, Katrina lost her SSI benefits.

Why, you may ask?

Because of a Federal inequity which denies American citizens who reside in most territories the rights to secure SSI benefits. This Federal law strips away the financial benefits from American citizens with disabilities who relocate from a State to Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.

We need to change this inequity. Why are U.S. citizens who reside in U.S. territories denied benefits they can attain if they were residing in a State?

This is a real case of unfairness.

Did you know that Guam has among the highest per capita numbers of enlisted members in the United States armed services throughout the Nation?

Yes, we, too, are proud Americans.

There have been lawsuits to fix this inequity, and the courts have simply ruled that SSI benefits were created by Congress and, hence, can be changed by Congress. So let's change it and do what is right.

Katrina and Leslie are both no longer with us in the world today. In Leslie's final days, she said she sadly wouldn't be able to witness when this wrong would be made right.

While neither sister may be here, let us fix this inequity in their names and the names of many others who have been denied this benefit just because they reside in a U.S. territory.

#### REGULAR ORDER HAS RETURNED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, thanks to House Republicans, regular order has been restored in the people's House.

From expedited votes to open, substantive debate on the merits of legislation that now take place on this very floor, the American people are seeing meaningful progress occur in real time, and it is so wonderful to see people in the gallery and in the halls of this Capitol.

One-party rule in Washington had corrupted the legislative process for 2 years, and it failed every single American.

Mr. Speaker, as part of House Republicans' Commitment to America, we highlighted our plan to ensure a government that is accountable.

Every day, we are acting upon that commitment and placing accountability and transparency at the feet of the American people. This is exactly what good governance is all about. Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle should take note.

#### ANOTHER IOWAN HEADS THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa's former Governor and Ambassador to China, Terry Branstad for being appointed as the President of the World Food Prize Foundation.

Founded by Iowa's Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, the World Food Prize Foundation aims to improve food security around the world. Each year, leaders in the agriculture industry travel to Des Moines to discuss the latest global agriculture issues and recognize individuals who have made distinguished accomplishments in the industry.

Governor Branstad played an integral role in creating the Iowa Hunger Summit during his time as Iowa's and the Nation's longest serving Governor. The Iowa Hunger Summit has been instrumental in combating food insecurity in Iowa and around the world in large part because of Governor Branstad's efforts.

I am excited to see how Governor Branstad will help the World Food Prize Foundation evolve, and I am confident that his experience and background will help the foundation further its mission to eliminate world hunger. I can think of no better fit for the job.

Congratulations, Governor Branstad.

I also wish a happy birthday to Caroline Bender. Happy birthday, Caroline.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, hear the supplications of Your people. We lay before You our greatest concerns, our innermost thoughts, and the whole of our hopes and fears. And when You hear us, forgive us for any doubt, any reluctance, and any failure to believe that You will answer.

Silence, then, all voices but Your own. May the words in our heads and our hearts be quiet. We who speak for a living, who have devoted our lives to fixing what is broken, and stepping into right wrongs are uncomfortable sitting back and waiting for Your word, listening for Your guidance.

So then when You do speak, when You make clear the direction You

would have us go, the work You have called us to do, the lives You have designed us to live, may we be open to receive Your divine direction.

With ears to hear from even the most unlikely source, and eyes to see what You reveal from the viewpoint of Your throne, and with the hearts open to the stirrings of Your Holy Spirit, may we prove worthy of Your attention and faithful in our response this day.

In Your sovereign and most gracious name we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ALFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### DONALD MEANS JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, I was grateful to attend the campaign kickoff for Donald Trump at the South Carolina State House in Columbia with the former President, Governor Henry McMaster, and Ambassador Ed McMullen.

My public service has been committed to promoting job creation with the slogan of "Joe Means Jobs." That is why I appreciate the success of Governor McMaster last year recruiting over \$10 billion in investments. This enhances South Carolina as being first

in the export of sales of both tires and passenger cars.

The triumphant policies of President Trump reducing taxes and regulations created jobs. He created record unemployment lows for African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and women. Donald means jobs.

A political consequence of the Trump and McMaster success is the super majority of Republicans in this South Carolina State House and State Senate with the most Republicans in over 150 years. Until 1961, there were no Republicans in the legislature in the 20th Century.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

#### CONGRATULATING THE KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

(Mr. ALFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor my Kansas City Chiefs for their AFC championship, and their berth in Super Bowl LVII.

Like many Missourians, I could not be prouder of the effort put forth on the field last night.

Despite having an injured Patrick Mahomes, injuries to several key players, incredible amounts of outside noise, and the referees against them the entire game, the Chiefs made short work of the "Bungles," I mean, Bengals, and sent them off to the off-season.

While I hope Eli Apple has fun in Cancun, I also hope that mayor jabroni and the rest of the Cincinnati fan base learned a valuable lesson last night: It is called Arrowhead. It is the loudest, toughest place to play in the NFL with the strongest fan base.

A special thank you to Patrick Mahomes, Harrison Butker, Travis Kelce, Chris Jones, and, of course, Joseph Ossai for all their wonderful efforts last night. We couldn't have done it without you.

And to the Philadelphia Eagles, we will see you in Arizona. Go Chiefs.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

#### COMMERCIAL REMOTE SENSING AMENDMENT ACT OF 2023

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 290) to provide for transparent licensing of commercial remote sensing systems, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 290

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act of 2023".

#### SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORTS.

(a) DEADLINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 60121(c) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "120" and inserting "60".

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 60126(a)(1)(E) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "120" and inserting "60".

(b) NOTIFICATIONS.—Section 60126(a)(2) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "section 60122; and" and inserting "paragraphs (5) and (6) of section 60122(b);".

(c) CONDITIONS.—Section 60126(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

"(3) all terms, conditions, or restrictions placed on licensees pursuant to section 60122; and".

(d) TIERS.—Section 60126(a)(1) of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by inserting "and" at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(F) a list of all applications submitted and licenses granted in accordance therewith, listed by tier as defined in regulation, as well as the rationale for each tier categorization;".

(e) SUNSET.—Section 60126 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "September 30, 2020" and inserting "September 30, 2030".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 290, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 290, the Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act.

I introduced this bipartisan legislation last Congress and that measure passed the House by a voice vote. I reintroduced the same bill this year, along with my colleague, the ranking member, Ms. LOFGREN. It updates the reporting requirements for NOAA's Office of Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs so that Congress can monitor how regulations are impacting the growth and improvement of the commercial remote sensing industry.

Remote sensing uses data collected from satellites to produce images of the Earth. It has become a critical resource for fields like agriculture, finance, trade, and energy.

For instance, imagery and data from commercial remote sensing allows us to improve crop production by helping farmers more efficiently apply water and fertilizer. It informs future commodity prices by actively monitoring weather and crop health.

Commercial remote sensing also improves our ability to prepare for and respond to natural disasters by informing flood plain mapping, tornado tracking, and drought monitoring, topics that are very important to my constituents in Oklahoma.

It can also be helpful in humanitarian relief efforts and monitoring treaty compliance, among other applications.

As you can see, commercial remote sensing provides us with critical information for many important applications. This technology is constantly evolving, and the industry is seeing tremendous growth.

To effectively support and manage remote sensing activities, it is critical that Congress receives timely and comprehensive reports so we can evaluate the state of the industry and how regulations are affecting this growth.

The Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act of 2015 established a reporting requirement from the Department of Commerce on the status of commercial remote sensing licensing and regulation. This requirement expired in 2020.

H.R. 290 will reinstate that reporting requirement and keep Congress informed of agency actions, their impact on licensees, and the state of the commercial remote sensing industry. These reports to Congress will give us the information we need to ensure that the U.S. remains the global leader in this important field.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 290 is a no-nonsense, bipartisan bill that will help ensure that the U.S. remains the global leader in the commercial remote sensing industry.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member LOFGREN for joining me in advancing this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today also in support of H.R. 290, the Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act of 2023.

I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, along with the chairman, and I am pleased to serve as ranking member of the committee, a new assignment for me.

It was all the way back in 1992 when Congress authorized the Secretary of Commerce to license and regulate commercial remote sensing space systems.

Commercial remote sensing is now a vibrant and growing industry. As the chairman has said, data and imagery from commercial remote sensing satellites are used widely in agriculture, disaster monitoring, energy, mapping, and national security applications. In fact, commercial remote sensing has been an important information source for fighting the devastating Western wildland fires, including those in my home State of California.

Companies from around the world are launching commercial remote sensing systems and selling the data. According to the Satellite Industries Association, globally, these services reached an estimated \$2.7 billion in revenue in 2021.

Congress needs to ensure that the United States remains at the cutting edge of this industry and that is why it is important that we have the transparency and insight we need to oversee the licensing and regulation of private remote sensing systems.

In order to accomplish this, the Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act modifies the timeline for completing licenses to conform with updated regulations. It requires additional details on licensing information to be included in reports to Congress, and it extends a sunset clause for the annual report on commercial remote sensing licenses until 2030.

As the chairman has mentioned, an identical version of this bill passed this House on suspension during the 117th Congress, and I am pleased that Chairman LUCAS and I can kick off our work this session by continuing the Science, Space, and Technology Committee's strong tradition of bipartisan work and our track record with this good bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we all support this good bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said previously, commercial remote sensing provides us with critical information related to a number of fields, like agriculture, finance, trade, energy, and more. This, in turn, allows us to be better stewards of our resources.

H.R. 290, the Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act will help us ensure that Congress receives the updates necessary to monitor industrial regulations. By updating these reporting requirements, we can ensure that the U.S. remains the global leader in an important field.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I thank the ranking member for her help in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 290—the Commercial Remote Sensing Amendment Act of 2023.

This bill would provide for transparent licensing of commercial remote sensing systems and renews the requirement that the Department of Commerce send an annual report to Congress on the status of commercial remote sensing applications.

Commercial remote sensing systems can be used to improve operations in a variety of industries.

Remote sensing is crucial for agricultural production, weather forecasting, and emergency response efforts.

The Aeronautical Survey Program (ASP), the Coastal Mapping Program (CMP), and emergency response efforts all benefit from the ocean data that has been collected by using remote sensing systems.

This data enables the provision of a regularly updated national coastline for marine navigation, establishing territorial limits, and managing coastal resources.

Cities like Houston that are close to coastlines and experience frequent flooding and hurricanes greatly benefit from commercial remote sensing systems.

A study done by the Texas State Climatologist Office at Texas A&M University warned that Texans should brace themselves for more extreme weather in the coming years.

The study found that, as a direct consequence of climate change, Texas should expect the severity of hurricanes and flooding to increase through the year 2036.

In recent years, Texans have experienced the devastating effects of climate change.

On August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas, just north of the city of Corpus Christi, as a category 4 storm.

Hurricane Harvey dropped 21 trillion gallons of intense rainfall on Texas and Louisiana, most of it on the Houston Metroplex.

The volume of water that fell on Houston and other affected areas of Texas and Louisiana could fill more than 24,000 Astrodomes or supply the water for Niagara Falls for 15 days.

Hurricane Harvey caused damage to more than 204,000 homes of which 99 thousand were in Harris County.

With commercial remote sensing systems, scientists would have been able to monitor the storm prior to landfall and would have been able to collect information and data from inaccessible areas.

Remote sensing systems provide warnings to locals and prepare them for storms, saving lives and managing potential risks.

The information gathered by these remote sensing systems, such as elevation data, is utilized to create management plans for the restoration, monitoring, and maintenance of the environment and the planet.

Over the last 50 years, the number of disasters has increased by a factor of five worldwide.

With the increase in climate disasters, lawmakers need to protect the American public by passing legislation that would manage risks and save lives.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation that can save lives as we navigate our everchanging climate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 290.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COST-SHARE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2023

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 342) to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require reporting relating to certain cost-share requirements, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 342

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2023”.

#### SEC. 2. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) REPORTING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection and at least quarterly thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and shall make publicly available, a report on the use by the Department during the period covered by the report of the authority to reduce or eliminate cost-sharing requirements provided by subsection (b)(3) or (c)(2).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 342, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 342, the Cost-Share Accountability Act

of 2023 introduced by my friend, Representative OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 342 is a good-government bill that does exactly what it says it will: it improves accountability.

When making awards, the Department of Energy is subject to cost-share requirements for most research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities.

DOE can modify or eliminate those requirements when necessary, an authority which has been critical to supporting and developing new technologies.

This bill is very simple. It requires DOE to submit a quarterly report to Congress describing the instances where they have modified or waived those cost-share requirements. The bill also makes those reports publicly available.

H.R. 342 doesn't prevent DOE from waiving cost-share requirements. It just ensures that those decisions are made public. This transparency and accountability is important because it allows us to ensure we are making the best possible use of taxpayer resources. It is a smart, bipartisan policy.

I thank Representative OBERNOLTE and Representative FOSTER for working on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join the chairman today in supporting H.R. 342, the Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2023. I am pleased that today we are considering this bill.

Many of the clean energy technologies deployed throughout the Nation today have benefited from financial support from the Department of Energy.

The bipartisan Cost-Sharing Accountability Act of 2023 would strengthen the reporting requirements related to certain cost-sharing requirements at DOE.

Specifically, the bill would require the Secretary of Energy to report on the use of the statutory authority to reduce or eliminate cost-sharing requirements for research, for development, for demonstration, as well as commercial application activities.

As the chairman has noted, better reporting on financial assistance will help us to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely. As mentioned, we passed a matching version of this bill under a suspension of the rules in the last Congress. It is time, we hope, for the Senate to take this bill up and pass it this year after the House passes this again.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 342, the Cost-Sharing Accountability Act.

Mr. Speaker, research and development grants in the field of energy administered by the Department of Energy play a critical role in innovation and energy research in the United States. The administration and awarding of those grants is governed by the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Among other things, that act requires the DOE to impose a cost share on the recipients of those grants. That cost share can be as low as 20 percent in the case of research and development grants, or as high as 50 percent in the case of commercialization and demonstration grants.

The purpose of this cost share is simple. It is to ensure that the grant recipients also have some skin in the game when it comes to ensuring the success of the grants and the projects that they are bidding on and demonstrating.

Several months ago, the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held an oversight hearing in which we investigated the occasions on which the Department of Energy had waived those cost-sharing requirements on grants that it had awarded.

The DOE has the statutory ability to waive those cost shares under the appropriate circumstances. We wanted to make sure that that authority was being exercised judiciously.

Although we found that the DOE was appropriately waiving those cost shares under those circumstances, we were very surprised by the lack of transparency in that process and equally surprised by the difficulty with which the subcommittee had in acquiring the information about how often the DOE was waiving those cost shares.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, H.R. 342, is a very simple solution to that problem. It will require the DOE to make quarterly reports to the committees of jurisdiction in both the House and the Senate on the occasions and the circumstances under which it waives cost-share requirements for the grants that it awards.

□ 1645

This will enhance Congress' ability to exercise oversight over the DOE. Equally importantly, it will impose greater transparency into this process for the parties that apply for these grants, and it will demonstrate the circumstances under which the DOE would consider waiving those cost-share requirements.

Mr. Speaker, this is basic good governance. It is an oversight bill. I hope it is something that we all on both sides of the aisle can support.

I thank my cosponsor, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER), for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 342.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE) for introducing this bill.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER), the cosponsor of this bill and last year's chair of the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 342, the Cost-Share Accountability Act.

This bill, which I co-led with its sponsor, Congressman OBERNOLTE, was born out of a joint hearing that we held last Congress, which discussed best practices for financial assistance agreements within the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy.

This bill mandates reports on the Department's use of cost-sharing practices, which require organizations receiving grants from the Department of Energy to fund a portion of the project's costs.

I am a big fan of cost-sharing agreements as a mechanism to make sure that taxpayer dollars are well spent. There are circumstances under which they may appropriately be waived, but in order for Congress to fulfill our oversight responsibilities, we must be able to access information on how those requirements are being implemented and when they are being waived.

This legislation is fundamental good governance, an important step to increase the transparency of the Department of Energy's funding practices, and I look forward to working with the Department of Energy to ensure that cost-sharing is implemented fairly and effectively and that it is supporting the Department's and Congress' priorities.

I thank Representative OBERNOLTE for his leadership on this legislation, which passed the House in a strong bipartisan vote last Congress, and also for his service as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight that I chaired last Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, let me close by urging everyone to support this good bill, and let's celebrate carrying on the fine tradition of bipartisan legislative action in the Science Committee. I look forward to the rest of this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 342 will create more transparency around the DOE awards and help us better oversee our investments in cutting-edge energy technologies. It is bipartisan, commonsense legislation, which is why it passed the House on suspension last year.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill once again, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 342—"The Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2023."

H.R. 342 requires the Department of Energy to report quarterly to Congress on the use of the department's authority to reduce or eliminate cost-sharing requirements for various research, development, and demonstration projects.

Specifically, this bill aims to establish the necessary requirements to effectively set the standards for quarterly reporting to Congress in order to ensure proper management of capital allotment between energy departments.

Mr. Speaker, The Energy Policy Act (EPAct) of 2005 (Public Law 109–58), the underlying statute of H.R. 342 which provides the background history for H.R. 342, calls for the development of grant programs, demonstration and testing initiatives, and tax incentives that promote alternative fuels and advanced vehicles production and use.

H.R. 342—"The Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2023" will provide advancements towards energy innovations that will benefit both the state of energy independence of the United States as well as critical energy advancements for the future.

The Secretary of Energy has the authority to reduce or eliminate cost sharing requirements for applied research and development as necessary and appropriate.

Moreover, the Secretary may reduce cost sharing requirements for demonstration and commercial application activities as necessary and appropriate, taking into consideration any technological risk relating to the activity.

Mr. Speaker, based on the S&P Global macroeconomic model completed on January 5th, it is expected that the U.S. real GDP will grow by 0.5 percent in 2023, with economic growth returning after contraction in the first quarter of 2023.

In 2024, the estimated real GDP will grow by 1.9 percent, driven primarily by an increase in household consumption. This means that there will be relatively flat economic growth in 2023 resulting in total U.S. energy consumption falling by 0.9 percent in the forecast. However, total energy consumption then rises by 1.0 percent in 2024.

This evidence provides us a basis for making sure we have the proper standards in place for effective accounting for key departments performing various research, development, and demonstration projects.

As a senior Member of the Budget Committee, I understand the importance of providing clarity and transparency to the American people on the allocation of funds.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H.R. 342, "The Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2023" so we can provide transparency to the American people while addressing the proper implementations towards efficient allotment of cost-sharing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 342.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2023

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 500) to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of certain securities in the case of the financial exploitation of specified adults, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 500

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Financial Exploitation Prevention Act of 2023".

#### SEC. 2. REDEMPTION OF CERTAIN SECURITIES POSTPONED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 22 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–22) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO NON-INSTITUTIONAL DIRECT AT-FUND ACCOUNTS.—

"(1) ELECTION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A registered open-end investment company and a transfer agent described under paragraph (2) may elect to comply with the requirements under paragraph (2) and subsection (i) by notifying the Commission of such election.

"(B) EFFECT OF ELECTION.—Paragraph (2) and subsection (i) shall only apply to a registered open-end investment company and a transfer agent that have made the election under subparagraph (A).

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In the case of a customer who is a holder of a non-institutional account held directly with a registered open-end investment company and serviced by a transfer agent (a 'direct-at-fund account'), the company and transfer agent shall—

"(A) request from such customer the name and contact information of at least one individual who—

"(i) is at the time of such request an adult; and

"(ii) may be contacted with respect to such account;

"(B) document and retain the information received pursuant to subparagraph (A); and

"(C) disclose to such customer in writing (including through electronic delivery) that such company or transfer agent may contact an individual specified pursuant to subparagraph (A) with respect to the account of such customer to—

"(i) address possible financial exploitation of such customer;

"(ii) confirm the contact information or health status of the customer; or

"(iii) identify any legal guardian, executor, trustee, or holder of a power of attorney of the customer.

#### "(i) REDEMPTION OF CERTAIN SECURITIES POSTPONED.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (e), a registered open-end investment company or a transfer agent acting on behalf of such company may postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of any redeemable security in accordance with its terms for more than seven days after the tender of such security to such company or its agent designated for that purpose for redemption if such company or agent reasonably believes that—

"(A) the redemption is requested by a security holder who is a specified adult; and

"(B) financial exploitation has occurred, is occurring, or has been attempted with respect to such redemption.

"(2) DURATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), a registered open-end investment company or a transfer agent

acting on behalf of such company may postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of a redeemable security under paragraph (1) for a period of not more than 15 business days.

"(B) EXTENSION UPON DETERMINATION OF EXPLOITATION.—The period described in subparagraph (A) may be extended by an additional 10 business days if the registered open-end investment company or a transfer agent acting on behalf of such company—

"(i) reasonably believes that—

"(I) the redemption is requested by a security holder who is a specified adult; and

"(II) financial exploitation has occurred, is occurring, or has been attempted with respect to such redemption;

"(ii) subject to subparagraph (D), not later than 2 days after making a determination under clause (i), notifies the individuals specified by such security holder under subsection (h)(2)(A) in writing (including through electronic delivery) of the extension of the period described in subparagraph (A) under this subparagraph and the reason for such extension;

"(iii) initiates an internal review of the facts and circumstances relating to the determination under clause (i);

"(iv) holds amounts related to the delayed payment or satisfaction upon redemption of the redeemable security in a demand deposit account; and

"(v) documents and retains records related to carrying out clause (iv) and includes such records in the first required account statement of the security holder provided after the date on which the determination is made under clause (i).

"(C) EXTENSION BY GOVERNMENT.—A State regulator, administrative agency of competent jurisdiction, or court of competent jurisdiction may extend the period described in subparagraph (A).

"(D) NOTIFICATION.—

"(i) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (B)(ii) shall not apply if a registered open-end investment company or transfer agent acting on behalf of such company reasonably believes that an individual required to be notified under such subparagraph is, has been, or will subject the security holder who identified such individual under subsection (h)(2)(A) to financial exploitation.

"(ii) REASONABLE EFFORTS.—An open-end investment company or transfer agent acting on behalf of such company shall be considered in compliance with subparagraph (B)(ii) if such company or transfer agent makes a reasonable effort to contact the individuals specified by a security holder under subsection (h)(2)(A).

"(E) INTERNAL PROCEDURES.—An open-end investment company or transfer agent acting on behalf of such company shall establish procedures to carry out the requirements under this subsection, including procedures—

"(i) related to the identification and reporting of matters related to the financial exploitation of specified adults;

"(ii) to determine whether to release or reinvest delayed redemption proceeds, taking into account the facts and circumstances of each case, should the internal review under subparagraph (B)(iii) support the reasonable belief described in subparagraph (B)(i);

"(iii) identifying each employee of the company or transfer agent with authority to establish, extend, or terminate a period described in paragraph (1) or subparagraph (A);

"(iv) in the case of a transfer agent, that are reasonably designed to ensure that the employees of such transfer agent comply with this subsection; and



“(v) in the case of an open-end investment company, establishing periodic reporting requirements under which a transfer agent acting on behalf of such company shall notify such company of—

“(I) each extension under subparagraph (B) authorized by such transfer agent;

“(II) each finding by the transfer agent under subparagraph (B)(i);

“(III) each notification under subparagraph (B)(ii) carried out by such transfer agent; and

“(IV) the results of each internal review initiated by the transfer agent under subparagraph (B)(iii).

“(F) INFORMATION INCLUDED IN CERTAIN STATEMENTS.—An open-end investment company shall include in each prospectus or statement of additional information a notification that the company or transfer agent acting on behalf of such company may postpone redemption of certain securities under this subsection.

“(G) RECORD RETENTION.—An open-end investment company or transfer agent acting on behalf of such company shall—

“(i) document and retain records of—

“(I) each postponement of redemption under subparagraph (A), (B), and (C);

“(II) each finding under subparagraph (B)(i);

“(III) the name and position of each employee described in subparagraph (E)(iii);

“(IV) each notification carried out under subparagraph (B)(ii); and

“(V) the results of each internal review initiated under subparagraph (B)(iii); and

“(ii) make such records available to the Commission at the request of the Commission.

“(3) SPECIFIED ADULT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘specified adult’ means—

“(A) an individual age 65 or older; or

“(B) an individual age 18 or older who is a registered open-end investment company or a transfer agent acting on behalf of such company reasonably believes has a mental or physical impairment that renders the individual unable to protect the individual’s own interests.”.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Securities and Exchange Commission, in consultation with the entities specified in paragraph (2), shall submit to Congress a report that includes recommendations regarding the regulatory and legislative changes necessary to address the financial exploitation of security holders who are specified adults (as defined in subsection (i)(3) of section 22 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-22), as added by this section).

(2) CONSULTATION.—The entities specified in this paragraph are as follows:

(A) The Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

(B) The Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

(C) The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

(D) The North American Securities Administrators Association.

(E) The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

(F) The Comptroller of the Currency.

(G) The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 500, the Financial Exploitation Prevention Act, a bipartisan bill that will help combat the financial exploitation of our seniors and other vulnerable adults.

I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), the new chair of the Subcommittee on Capital Markets, for her work on this bill.

Financial exploitation, particularly of seniors and other vulnerable adults, is a serious and growing issue. Consider this: The number of Americans age 65 and older is projected to nearly double from 52 million in 2018 to 95 million by 2060. At the same time, the 65 and older age group’s share of the total population is predicted to rise from 16 percent to 23 percent. Right now, approximately 44 percent of households are headed by a baby boomer, and 30 percent of Silent Generation and GI Generation households own mutual funds.

As more and more investors transition into retirement, the risk of financial exploitation for older households will only increase. Right now, roughly one in five senior investors already fall prey to fraudsters, losing an estimated \$2.9 billion annually. Those are just the cases we know about. Unfortunately, there is research that shows only 1 in 44 cases of financial abuse is ever reported.

This bill provides a tool to fight against this type of elder abuse.

Some mutual fund shareholder accounts are held directly with the mutual fund and serviced by the fund’s transfer agent, otherwise known as direct-at-fund accounts. The transfer agent is typically responsible for opening and servicing the accounts, managing account records, and serving as the fund’s point of contact with those shareholders.

Under current law, when a funds transfer agent suspects financial exploitation in a direct-at-fund account, it cannot lawfully delay the disbursement or redemption proceeds while an investigation occurs. This bill would codify a 2018 Securities and Exchange Commission-issued no-action letter that permits a mutual fund and its transfer agent to delay the redemption period of a security if it is reasonably believed that a request was made by exploited seniors or other vulnerable adults.

In many cases, this work is done by financial firms using technology. That technology is widely available across financial platforms, and this is enabling that technology to flag a ques-

tion and give pause to the movement of funds, thereby protecting a senior’s accounts.

Codifying this Securities and Exchange Commission no-action letter will provide our potentially at-risk investors with the protection they need to make sure they can receive the hard-earned savings that they have built up over the years.

This is an important bill. It takes the existing practice from the Securities and Exchange Commission and makes it law, giving it a stronger force of protection for our seniors.

It is a bipartisan bill. I am very proud that this is the first bill reported out of the House Financial Services Committee and that it has bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption and support of this bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 500, the Financial Exploitation Prevention Act of 2023, sponsored by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Adults over the age of 65 are too often the target of financial exploitation and have become victims of financial crimes more than any other demographic.

In the annual report on elder fraud and abuse, the Department of Justice reported that, in 2020 alone, seniors suffered over \$1 billion in financial losses due to fraud.

Unlike other adults, seniors are often dependent on their savings to support them in retirement, making it much more difficult for them to recover from incidents of fraud.

Brokers and investment managers, who often stand in as the stewards of the savings of seniors, are in a unique position to protect elders from financial crimes.

In 2018, the Securities and Exchange Commission released a letter called a no-action letter stating that the Commission would not take enforcement action against the agents of an investment company, including mutual funds, if the person paused a payment or redemption based on the suspicion of financial exploitation.

This pause on cashing out the savings of a senior provides a necessary safeguard to ensure that the redemption is consistent with the will of the senior.

H.R. 500 would codify this SEC letter. It would also make two further changes to describe how a mutual fund adviser can establish the process at each fund to protect seniors.

I thank Mrs. WAGNER for working with my staff to craft the language in this bill. This is a helpful piece of legislation that will provide one more tool to market participants to protect investors and, in particular, our Nation’s retirees.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation passed with bipartisan support last Congress, and I urge my colleagues to once again

support this bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), the chair of the Subcommittee on Capital Markets.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 500, the Financial Exploitation Prevention Act.

It is, indeed, a bipartisan bill that will help prevent seniors and other vulnerable adults from becoming victims of fraud.

I thank Chairman MCHENRY for his very strong support on this important legislation and the ranking member for working with us on this legislation.

Financial exploitation of seniors and other vulnerable adults is a serious and growing problem. Over the next 10-plus years, 10,000 Americans will turn 65 every day, with seniors making up 18 percent of the Nation's population by 2030.

As more investors age into retirement, their risk of exploitation increases. Sadly, about one in five senior investors falls prey to financial fraud, and those investors lose an estimated \$2.9 billion annually in reported cases.

□ 1700

However, according to the National Adult Protective Services Association, only 1 in 44 cases of financial abuse is ever even reported.

Right now, approximately 44 percent of households headed by a baby boomer and 30 percent of Silent Generation households own mutual funds. My bill proposes a solution to fight elder abuse in the context of mutual funds.

Since some mutual fund shareholder accounts are held directly with the mutual fund and serviced by the fund's transfer agent, or direct-at-fund accounts, as they are known, the transfer agent is typically responsible for opening and servicing the accounts, maintaining the account records, and serving as the fund's point of contact for those shareholders.

Under current law, when a fund's transfer agent suspects financial exploitation in a direct-at-fund account, it cannot lawfully delay the disbursement of redemption proceeds while an investigation occurs.

My legislation would codify both a FINRA and SEC issued no-action letter from 2018 that permits a mutual fund and its transfer agent to delay the redemption period of a security if they reasonably believe that a request was made by exploiting seniors or other vulnerable adults. It does not stop this trade from going through, it just takes a pause while they check with that senior to make sure that there has not been fraud or elder abuse anticipated.

This will provide our potentially vulnerable investors with an important layer of investor protection to help make sure that they receive the hard-earned savings that they have built up over the years.

Additionally, and importantly, my bill also requires the SEC to report to

Congress on additional potential legislative solutions for further combating financial exploitation of seniors and vulnerable adults.

Many of us have had the bittersweet experience of caring for a parent or loved one as they grow older. This legislation will give our constituents the peace of knowing that their loved ones are better protected from fraud.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Financial Exploitation Prevention Act.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER), the newest member of the House Financial Services Committee.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 500, the Financial Exploitation Prevention Act of 2023. I thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Missouri, for introducing this legislation.

Too often, our offices receive desperate calls from seniors who have been exploited by scammers who coerced them into making bad or risky investments and cost them all or most of their life savings. These calls are especially heartbreaking as our seniors are the ones who have sacrificed so much to build our country into the incredible Nation that it is today.

That is why the Financial Exploitation Prevention Act codifies a process by which seniors and vulnerable adults in our country are given a tool they can use to fight back: time.

By delaying the transfer of funds and verifying that the true will of the accountholder is being exercised, we can, hopefully, prevent more of these tragic calls and circumstances from happening in the first place—as my colleague pointed out, \$2.9 billion a year in fraud perpetrated upon our seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Senate to join us in passing this commonsense legislation into law to protect our seniors and our most vulnerable residents across our country.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

H.R. 500 is a helpful piece of legislation that will support our Nation's seniors as they seek to fund their retirement.

Investment advisers and brokers want to do the right thing to stop fraud when they see it, and this bill will ensure they are able to do so.

The bill is supported by the Consumer Federation of America, the North American Securities Administrators Association, and Public Citizen.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I said to the ranking member that I was prepared to close. We have a Member that just arrived, and I am going to allow her to have a closing statement here.

I thank the ranking member, Mr. Speaker, and her staff working with the Republican staff of the House Financial Services Committee for being able to move these first pieces of legislation. We have three bills that are on the suspension calendar this evening that are bipartisan bills. One has a primary sponsor by a Democrat, and two have primary sponsors by Republicans, but all are bipartisan. I thank the ranking member for her willingness to work across the aisle to move bipartisan legislation.

In doing this, I recall the beginning of last Congress 2 years ago, and 2 years before that, when she reached out to Republicans in the then-minority and offered us the same thing. I am grateful for that outreach 2 and 4 years ago.

I have extended the same hand to the gentlewoman from California, and she has likewise extended the same hand to me. Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful for the leadership of the ranking member and her willingness to work with us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN), a new member of the House Financial Services Committee.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Financial Exploitation Prevention Act, a bill that I am proud to be a cosponsor of.

Every day, seniors and other vulnerable adults become targets of financial fraud. While not all the cases are known or discovered, about one in five senior investors in the United States are victims of financial scams. In 2021 alone, there were over 1,500 reported cases of financial fraud against Hoosier seniors. This is unacceptable.

As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, this is exactly the type of legislation my constituents sent me here to support. That is why, today, I will be voting "yes" on this important bill to keep our seniors' pocketbooks safe.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will join me in doing the same.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 500—the Financial Exploitation Prevention Act of 2023, to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of certain securities in the case of the financial exploitation of specified adults.

H.R. 500 would allow a registered open-end investment company to better protect seniors by delaying the redemption period of any redeemable security if it was reasonably believed that such redemption was requested through the financial exploitation of a security holder who is a senior or individual unable to protect their own interests.

The legislation would also require the Securities and Exchange Commission to submit a report to Congress that includes recommendations for regulatory and legislative changes that would address financial exploitation of older adults.



16.9 percent of the United States population are adults 65 years and older. The nations' population is aging, and it is predicted that one in five Americans will be 65 years or older by 2040.

As our population gets older, it is imperative that we continue to protect ourselves against those who take financial advantage of our elders.

According to the Department of Justice, there were more than 92,000 victims of elder fraud in 2021. These 92,000 cases accounted for \$1.7 billion in losses in 2021.

Financial exploitation refers to financial crimes committed against older adults. Financial abuse is typically committed by someone that the senior knows and trusts, whereas financial fraud is committed by a stranger.

The median income of seniors 65 years and older is \$47,620, while the average annual expenses for this age group is \$48,872.

With this budget mismatch, many seniors are already on strict budgets, and with the risk of financial exploitation, it is essential that this age group is protected by legislation that makes it more difficult for unscrupulous individuals—whether a family member or a stranger—to take their hard-earned money from them.

In 2021, Texas ranked number three in the number of victims of financial exploitation. Almost 6,800 seniors were impacted, and the total losses were over \$150 million.

This legislation would help our seniors by requiring that financial institutions delay the redemption period for redeemable securities if it is believed that the request was made under financial exploitation.

As the number of elders increases in our Nation, the risk of financial exploitation increases. Lawmakers must work together to ensure that we are protecting Americans and their investments, and this legislation would do just that.

This common sense, bipartisan legislation passed the House in the 117th Congress, and shows that the two parties have the ability to come together to work on legislation that positively impacts the American public.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 500—the Financial Exploitation Prevention Act of 2023.

As we grow older as a nation, we must work to protect our elders.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 500.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### CREDIT UNION BOARD MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 582) to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of

board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 582

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Credit Union Board Modernization Act”.

#### SEC. 2. FREQUENCY OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS.

Section 113 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1761b) is amended—

(1) by striking “monthly” each place such term appears;

(2) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “The board of directors” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The board of directors”;

(3) in subsection (a) (as so designated), by striking “shall meet at least once a month and”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) MEETINGS.—The board of directors of a Federal credit union shall meet as follows:

“(1) With respect to a de novo Federal credit union, not less frequently than monthly during each of the first five years of the existence of such Federal credit union.

“(2) Not less than six times annually, with at least one meeting held during each fiscal quarter, with respect to a Federal credit union—

“(A) with composite rating of either 1 or 2 under the Uniform Financial Institutions Rating System (or an equivalent rating under a comparable rating system); and

“(B) with a capability of management rating under such composite rating of either 1 or 2.

“(3) Not less frequently than once a month, with respect to a Federal credit union—

“(A) with composite rating of either 3, 4, or 5 under the Uniform Financial Institutions Rating System (or an equivalent rating under a comparable rating system); or

“(B) with a capability of management rating under such composite rating of either 3, 4, or 5.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 582, the Credit Union Board Modernization Act.

Every day, consumers in each of our districts rely on their local credit union to help them with things like securing a loan to buy a home, saving for retirement, or even financing tuition. This means that credit unions need to spend their time working with their members, not wasting valuable resources and staff time checking the box on monthly meetings that may not be necessary.

This bill allows credit unions to do that important work. By updating the Federal Credit Union Act to reduce the frequency of required board meetings, certain Federal credit unions will have greater flexibility in meeting requirements. At the same time, the safety and soundness of the financial system will be protected.

Currently, Federal credit union boards are required to meet at least once per month. Under the bill's new requirements, Federal credit unions with a composite CAMELS rating of 1 or 2 will be required to meet at least six times annually, with at least one meeting held during each fiscal quarter.

What does that mean? It means entities with the strongest performance and risk management practices will be rewarded. That means, instead of checking the box on those monthly meetings, if they have high-quality performance and risk management, they will be relieved of some of those burdens.

To be clear, this is not a one-size-fits-all mandate. There is nothing in the bill that prevents those credit union boards from meeting each month or even more often, if needed, and they do. In times of financial stress, these boards meet quite frequently to assess risks and to protect their members' nest eggs.

This bill also acknowledges that new or poor-performing credit unions may require more regular meetings to ensure that they can provide the level of service their communities deserve. This legislation continues to require monthly meetings for new Federal credit unions during the first 5 years of existence.

In addition, credit unions with a composite CAMELS rating of 3, 4, or 5 must continue to meet once a month. These are the credit unions that need to improve performance and risk management practices to ensure the safety and soundness of our financial system.

Mr. Speaker, I will finish with this: This bill is a good illustration of how Members can come together to create bipartisan legislation to modernize outdated practices and policies for the benefit of our communities' financial institutions and for their members.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), the chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, for his good work last Congress and this Congress on this bill, and a bipartisan bill indeed this is.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time, and I urge my colleagues' adoption and support of this bill.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 582, the Credit Union Board Modernization Act, sponsored by Representative VARGAS.

This bill would modernize Federal requirements for Federal credit union board meetings to match a flexibility included in State credit union charter

requirements in 17 States, including my State of California.

Specifically, Federal credit unions are currently required to meet monthly. Under this bill, Federal credit unions that receive high ratings from the regulator would only be required to meet six times annually, with at least one meeting held during each fiscal quarter.

To ensure stability and mitigate the risk of institutional failure, this bill retains certain safeguards. For example, Federal credit unions that receive low exam ratings would still be required to meet at least monthly, as well as newly formed Federal credit union boards during the first 5 years of their charter.

Additionally, if emergencies or issues arise requiring a board meeting, nothing in the bill prevents Federal credit unions from meeting more frequently than what is required.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), the chair of the Financial Services Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman MCHENRY for yielding me time this afternoon.

I rise today in support of the Credit Union Board Modernization Act and ask for its immediate passage.

Credit unions can play an important role in many of our local communities, often working with families and small business owners to gain access to credit.

H.R. 582 will go a long way to providing reasonable regulatory relief for credit unions, especially in Michigan's Fourth Congressional District and across the Nation.

□ 1715

Mr. Speaker, if signed into law, these commonsense, reasonable reforms will allow federally chartered credit unions in good standing in Michigan and across the country the same reasonable governance practices afforded to those at the State level.

Currently, all federally chartered credit union boards must meet at least once month. This one-size-fits-all requirement often negatively impacts smaller rural credit unions, which ultimately impacts, frankly, which members are willing to even serve on those boards and therefore the services that they can and will be able to provide to their local community.

The Credit Union Board Modernization Act rightly modernizes how often federally chartered credit union boards must meet, which the National Credit Union Administration currently mandates to be monthly. Nothing in this legislation prevents a credit union from meeting more than six times a year. It just gives them the flexibility and they are able to then decide. That

is the idea of a credit union; member-driven, they will decide.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsor of this bill, the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) for working with Republicans, and specifically me, this last Congress to implement these reasonable safeguards.

I do want to note, specifically, this legislation does not apply to new credit unions or those credit unions with low exam ratings, as the chair had indicated. Highly rated credit unions with high management ratings must hold at least six meetings annually, with at least one meeting held during each fiscal quarter.

Alternatively, these lower-rated credit unions must continue to meet once a month, and there will be direction on that, as the chair has outlined.

I want to be clear. This bill does not give credit unions an advantage over their community bank counterparts but brings parity to an outdated process.

Again, I thank Congressman VARGAS for his commitment to make this a bipartisan effort. I look forward to seeing these reforms, which will strengthen local economies across the Nation, enacted into law.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. VARGAS' efforts to work on this bipartisan bill and appreciate that the reforms in this bill have been structured in a way to incentivize credit union boards to take steps to ensure their institutions are safe, sound, and well managed.

This bill has broad support, including from credit unions, like the California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues, to consumer groups like Americans for Financial Reform.

I am pleased to work with Mr. VARGAS to advance this bill through the House. I was pleased to do this in the last Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

This is the case on the House Financial Services Committee, when we see a challenge that has a commonsense solution, we try to tackle it and we try to tackle it in a bipartisan way.

I want to concur with Mr. HUIZENGA in his praise of Mr. VARGAS. This was a bipartisan bill between Mr. VARGAS and Mr. HUIZENGA last Congress, and it continues to be a bipartisan bill this Congress.

I thank my colleague, Mr. VARGAS, for offering it, and I thank the ranking member for working with me and with my team to bring these three bipartisan bills before the full House in the opening month of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this bill's adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 582, the "Credit

Union Board Modernization Act" which would give credit unions more flexibility in their governance by not mandating monthly board meetings.

H.R. 582 would allow credit unions to dedicate more time and resources to serving their members by reducing the frequency that the board of directors of a federal credit union would be required to meet each year.

In the modern world, with increased connectivity from today's technology, boards of Credit Unions should not be subjected to mandated minimum meetings but should be provided with the flexibility to determine the frequency of their meetings as provided within the guidelines outlined in this bill.

By modernizing Credit Unions, we are ensuring that working class people who are exercising their right to choose what financial service they want, get the most from their chosen service.

This bill would be helpful to small credit unions, especially those that are closest to individual communities and whose boards may not be able to meet every month.

For years, I have supported Credit Unions by supporting their tax-exempt status in 2004 and 2011.

In 2012, I recognized and supported the Texas Dow Employees Credit Union full-service center, which was an important asset to the community.

Credit unions provide a critical resource to many working families by allowing them to have access to our financial system when they might otherwise be restricted from such access.

My constituents and many Americans rely on credit unions as a reasonable and trustworthy financial service.

According to the CUNA (Credit Union National Association), nationally there are over 135 million Americans who are members in a credit union.

In Texas alone, credit unions have 422 credit unions headquartered in the state and over 10 million members' total as of 2022.

If we require credit unions to dedicate resources to meetings instead of providing service to their members, we are failing our constituents.

America's credit unions are a central part of our Nation's financial prosperity and must be supported and uplifted through shifting times of essential modernization.

I support this bill and urge my colleagues to join me.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 582.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EXPANDING ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR RURAL JOB CREATORS ACT

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 298) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to expand access to capital for rural-area small businesses, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 298

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act”.

#### SEC. 2. ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR RURAL-AREA SMALL BUSINESSES.

Section 4(j) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78d(j)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(C), by inserting “rural-area small businesses,” after “women-owned small businesses,”; and

(2) in paragraph (6)(B)(iii), by inserting “rural-area small businesses,” after “women-owned small businesses,”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 298, the Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act.

I thank Congressman MOONEY and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for their work on this issue last Congress and this Congress.

In the Financial Services Committee, we continually highlight the importance of capital formation for entrepreneurs and job creators in underbanked rural communities. That means their ability to get a loan, their ability to get investment capital. We want to enhance every American's ability to get access to capital to take their ideas to market.

I can speak from experience about the struggles emerging entrepreneurs face when starting or growing their own small business.

My father started a business in our backyard, mowing grass for other people. He and his buddy both had five kids. I am the youngest of five kids. My dad's business partner had five kids. They had plenty of free labor. What they didn't have access to was capital or investment capital. So his first piece of lending was done because he had a Toro, which was the best lawnmower you could get at the time. A Toro salesperson so wanted to make the sale that he let him use the equipment until my father and his business partner could get paid from the hospital where they were mowing the grass. That was the first piece of equipment they got, because the sales guy wanted to make the sale.

The second piece of equipment they got was a truck, to put that lawn mower in the back of, that they got using a Master Charge, which is now Mastercard. They used a credit card to buy a truck. They put a rope around this very expensive riding lawnmower in the back of this beat-up pickup truck.

That was the dream for both families that put five kids through college. Both families, five kids. Ten kids total put through college. Now, my brother runs that business that my father started in our backyard.

The question of access to capital, if you don't have friends that have personal wealth, it is very difficult in this country. It is in rural communities. It is in urban communities. We have areas of this country that are underbanked and resource starved. It doesn't mean that they have less good ideas because of where they are born. They don't. That is not connected with this. They are starved for capital.

What we need to do, in a bipartisan way, and what we have had conversations on in a bipartisan way on our committee, is how to fix that problem. We are trying because we have communities across this country that are being left behind. That is completely unacceptable.

This is a bipartisan bill that tries to get at that and help small businesses that are vulnerable in rural communities.

Research shows that after the last financial crisis, small businesses and startups were less likely to form in rural areas than in urban areas. Now, these same small businesses are facing record inflation and supply chain disruptions.

In recent years, the SEC's Small Business Advocate found that rural businesses that seek investor capital are raising higher amounts. However, rural businesses are still raising less capital than their urban counterparts relative to the size of the affected population.

But even the urban numbers misrepresent what is happening in urban areas in this country. Just because a big business is headquartered in an urban area doesn't mean they are serving the urban area or that they are employing in that urban area. So we have got huge challenges.

In rural areas, which this bill deals with, every small business and entrepreneur counts. They are the lifeblood of the local economy, and their success is critical to the success of their community. This bill is just one example of how Congress can help solve one of the issues that rural small businesses face: access to capital.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MOONEY for his work on this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 298, the Expanding Access to Capital for Rural

Job Creators Act, sponsored by Representative MOONEY of West Virginia. Last Congress, this bill was led by Democrats and introduced by my good friend, former Representative AXNE of Iowa. The bill passed the House last year, and I continue to support it.

While small businesses in the big cities may enjoy easier access to capital to grow their businesses, hire and support their employees, and serve their communities, the businesses in rural America often struggle.

Rural America's job growth is half the rate than that of big cities. Rural America's poverty rate is also higher than that of the big cities, even though it has dropped under President Biden's leadership and as a result of the Inflation Reduction Act passed by Democrats last Congress.

To better understand these issues in rural America, H.R. 298 would require the SEC's Small Business Advocate to report to Congress on particular challenges that rural businesses face in accessing our capital markets.

I am very much in support of this bill. I have always advocated that we should work together, the rural legislators and the small town legislators, to be able to do more in rural communities. Of course, that takes resources.

So while my colleagues on the opposite side of the aisle may be in the cutting mode, based on what I am learning about the debt limit discussions that are going on, I would urge them to take a look at these rural communities so that we can begin to close that gap that exists.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleagues: It is not only when we are talking about businesses and small businesses, whether we are talking about that or healthcare or any of the other issues, the rural communities need more advocacy. They need more legislation. They need more of the Representatives on the opposite side of the aisle dealing with us so that we can correct these gaps that have lasted for far too long.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the words of the ranking member.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), the vice chair of the Financial Services Committee and the chair of the Digital Assets Subcommittee.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the chairman of the Financial Services Committee, and I thank the ranking member in the 118th Congress, Ms. WATERS, for her work on this bipartisan bill, H.R. 298, Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act, sponsored by Alex Mooney, our Member from West Virginia, certainly a very rural place, mountainous, tough to get around, a lot like Arkansas.

Small businesses, as the chairman said, are the backbone of the economy in Arkansas, as they are across the country. Almost 50 percent of jobs in

this Nation are with traditional small businesses. Yet, they face obstacles in getting the capital they need to grow and create jobs under the best of circumstances, in Los Angeles or in Charlotte, the financial capital of the east. These greater challenges are really tough when you get out in the country. In Arkansas, almost all but two counties in our State are deeply rural.

I was a bank president in a town of 100 people, in a county of 7,000. When you talk about capital needs, that was certainly the case. That is why I can support this wholly bipartisan legislation that would direct the Securities and Exchange Commission's Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation to study the problems faced by those small businesses, entrepreneurs, owners, and family businesses, that want to access capital to grow.

This bill passed this House last July with bipartisan support, and so it should do it again today. It sends a message that Congress is fighting to help our small businesses out in rural areas. It is critical. We want them to thrive.

□ 1730

Sadly, this Securities and Exchange Commission and its chairman, Gary Gensler, don't have this as a priority, Mr. Speaker. Their priority is not helping capital formation or helping small businesses thrive. In fact, they are trying to choke it off with their regulatory burden.

I am glad to see that Congress is weighing in to say this is important. Our young people in rural communities are also facing an additional crisis, which is, how do we create opportunities for high school students in rural counties that can't afford a 4-year college degree or don't want to saddle themselves with debt, and that means creating a path to pursue a skilled trade—something that is in desperate need in all of our counties, urban and rural.

Workforce education must go hand in hand with helping small capitals get the capital to grow. Entrepreneurs have to have the investment, but they have also got to have a skilled workforce to help them grow their company and expand for other people.

I am fully in support of this bill because I think it speaks to the heart of the vast majority of our country, which are small companies working in rural areas.

I agree with the ranking member when she says that they need investment in healthcare and other things in rural areas, and that is why in my State there are 172 community health centers, Federal community health centers, spread across our entire State. We have a really capable, good local hospital system throughout our rural counties.

We are blessed by that. We are blessed by good CTE schools, classic trade workforce schools, but we could

use more. Of course, we have got to have capital to grow, and it can't just come from the banking sector.

That is why I support so fully our chair's emphasis on crowdsourcing funding for small businesses. Think how much more straightforward that is in a rural area to try to do something good by bringing together people from all over, all works of life to help somebody build a business.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair for his leadership. I thank the ranking member.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all our colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 298 directs the SEC Small Business Advocate to focus on the challenges rural small businesses face. I, again, urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Again, I would like to reiterate how anxious I am to work with the opposite side of the aisle so that we could close this gap and deal with the concerns of rural America. It is not only in small business; again, it is healthcare and it is in housing.

You all know that housing is one of my top priorities. I am looking forward to an urban-rural Renaissance of some kind. I want to say to Mr. HILL, I am looking forward to what can be done in Arkansas.

My mother was born in Cotton Plant, Arkansas, in his district, and I know that there are a lot of needs there, but it is going to cost money. It is going to cost time. I want the gentleman to know I believe in capital formation, and I think we can work together on capital formation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for her words and comments here. It is true we have worked together on capital formation initiatives in previous Congresses and I would hope that we will be able to do the same.

I know of her upbringing in Missouri and her career in California. She has both rural and urban experiences that she can bring to this and I, likewise, have mainly rural upbringing to bring to this, but I think together we can craft a smart agenda, address the needs of the American people, and that is my intention with a focus on capital formation across the country, with the needs of a modern economy to digitize so many of our processes in the world of financial services, and the need to give architecture to a new range of assets that are in the financial services world around cryptocurrency and digital assets.

There is a lot that is happening here that we have to embrace and allow that prosperity to be spread across the country. Working together, I think we can do that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 298—the Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act.

H.R. 298 requires the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation, an entity within the Securities and Exchange Commission to submit an annual report on the various challenges small businesses in rural areas face when attempting to secure capital.

This bill was first introduced in 2017 and continues to be reintroduced into congress with the sole hope of helping the small businesses that truly are the backbone of our economies.

The Securities Exchange Act of 1934 was originally created to regulate securities transactions in the secondary market in order to promote more financial integrity, transparency and to reduce fraud and manipulation.

Over the years, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 has been amended in response to various needs of our capital markets.

The Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation was established in January 2019 as an independent SEC office.

Among other things, this office is responsible for advancing the interests of small businesses and their investors at the SEC.

The office also facilitates the expanded access to capital for rural area small businesses.

Rural businesses in Texas and around the nation frequently encounter significant challenges when attempting to raise funds to expand and improve their operations.

Lack of capital or funding, a faulty infrastructure or business model, and ineffective marketing efforts are a frequent cause of failure for small businesses.

This legislation would support our rural economies by assisting rural small businesses in overcoming these obstacles.

It is crucial for Congress to support small and rural businesses if it wants to help this country continue to prosper and grow.

In 2022 Texas had a population of about 30 million, with 3.8 million of them residing in rural areas.

And in 2022, between 13 and 14 percent of all jobs in the United States could be found in rural areas, a rate that is only anticipated to increase over time.

These continuing increases in employment and population indicate a developing trend and the requirement for new businesses to develop in rural areas with easier access to capital which provides new employment opportunities.

With more than 13,000 unemployed Texans and 6 million Americans throughout the USA, it is essential that we, as elected members of Congress, support the economic growth of our rural populations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 298.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CISCOMANI) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 500; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

#### FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 500) to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of certain securities in the case of the financial exploitation of specified adults, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 15-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 419, nays 0, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 94]

YEAS—419

Adams	Biggs	Caraveo
Aderholt	Bilirakis	Carbajal
Aguilar	Bishop (GA)	Cárdenas
Alford	Bishop (NC)	Carey
Allen	Blunt Rochester	Carl
Amodel	Boebert	Carson
Armstrong	Bonamici	Carter (GA)
Arrington	Bost	Carter (LA)
Auchincloss	Bowman	Cartwright
Babin	Boyle (PA)	Case
Bacon	Brecheen	Casten
Baird	Brown	Castor (FL)
Balderson	Brownley	Castro (TX)
Balint	Buck	Chavez-DeRemer
Banks	Bucshon	Cherfilus-
Barr	Budzinski	McCormick
Barragán	Burchett	Chu
Bean (FL)	Burgess	Cicilline
Bentz	Burlison	Ciscomani
Bera	Bush	Clark (MA)
Beyer	Calvert	Clarke (NY)
Bice	Cammack	Cleaver

Cline	Hern	Miller (OH)
Cloud	Higgins (LA)	Miller (WV)
Clyburn	Higgins (NY)	Miller-Meeks
Clyde	Hill	Mills
Cohen	Himes	Molinaro
Cole	Hinson	Moolenaar
Collins	Horsford	Mooney
Comer	Houchin	Moore (AL)
Connolly	Houlahan	Moore (UT)
Correa	Hoyer	Moore (WI)
Costa	Hoyle (OR)	Moran
Courtney	Hudson	Morelle
Craig	Huffman	Moskowitz
Crane	Huizenga	Moulton
Crawford	Hunt	Mrvan
Crenshaw	Issa	Mullin
Crockett	Ivey	Murphy
Crow	Jackson (IL)	Nadler
Curtis	Jackson (NC)	Napolitano
D'Esposito	Jackson (TX)	Neal
Davids (KS)	Jackson Lee	Neguse
Davidson	Jacobs	Nehls
Davis (IL)	James	Newhouse
Davis (NC)	Jayapal	Nickel
De La Cruz	Jeffries	Norcross
Dean (PA)	Johnson (GA)	Norman
DeGette	Johnson (LA)	Nunn (IA)
DeLauro	Johnson (OH)	Oberman
DelBene	Johnson (SD)	Ocasio-Cortez
Deluzio	Jordan	Ogles
DeSaulnier	Joyce (OH)	Omar
DesJarlais	Joyce (PA)	Owens
Diaz-Balart	Kammlager-Dove	Pallone
Dingell	Kaptur	Palmer
Doggett	Kean (NJ)	Panetta
Donalds	Keating	Pappas
Duarte	Kelly (IL)	Pascarell
Duncan	Kelly (MS)	Payne
Dunn (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Pelosi
Edwards	Khanna	Peltola
Ellzey	Kiggans (VA)	Perez
Emmer	Kildee	Perry
Escobar	Kiley	Peters
Eshoo	Kilmer	Petterson
Españolat	Kim (CA)	Pfleger
Estes	Kim (NJ)	Phillips
Evans	Krishnamoorthi	Pingree
Ezell	Kuster	Pocan
Fallon	Kustoff	Porter
Feenstra	LaHood	Posey
Ferguson	LaLota	Pressley
Finstad	Lamborn	Quigley
Fischbach	Landsman	Ramirez
Fitzgerald	Langworthy	Raskin
Fitzpatrick	Larsen (WA)	Reschenthaler
Fleischmann	Larson (CT)	Rodgers (WA)
Fletcher	Latta	Rogers (AL)
Flood	LaTurner	Rogers (KY)
Foster	Lawler	Rose
Foushee	Lee (CA)	Rosendale
Fox	Lee (FL)	Ross
Frankel, Lois	Lee (NV)	Rouzer
Franklin, C.	Lee (PA)	Roy
Scott	Leger Fernandez	Ruiz
Frost	Lesko	Ruppersberger
Fry	Letlow	Rutherford
Fulcher	Levin	Ryan
Gaetz	Lieu	Salazar
Gallagher	Lofgren	Salinas
Gallego	Loudermilk	Sánchez
Garamendi	Lucas	Santos
Garbarino	Luetkemeyer	Sarbanes
Garcia (TX)	Luna	Scalise
Garcia, Mike	Luttrell	Scanlon
Garcia, Robert	Lynch	Schakowsky
Gimenez	Mace	Schiff
Golden (ME)	Magaziner	Schneider
Goldman (NY)	Malliotakis	Scholten
Gomez	Mann	Schrier
Gonzales, Tony	Manning	Schweikert
Good (VA)	Massie	Scott (VA)
Gooden (TX)	Mast	Scott, Austin
Gosar	Matsui	Scott, David
Gottheimer	McBath	Self
Granger	McCarthy	Sessions
Graves (LA)	McCaul	Sewell
Graves (MO)	McClain	Sherman
Green (TN)	McClintock	Sherrill
Green, Al (TX)	McCollum	Simpson
Greene (GA)	McCormick	Slotkin
Griffith	McGarvey	Smith (MO)
Grothman	McGovern	Smith (NE)
Guest	McHenry	Smith (NJ)
Guthrie	Meeks	Smith (WA)
Hagness	Menendez	Smucker
Harder (CA)	Meng	Sorensen
Harris	Meuser	Soto
Harshbarger	Mfume	Spanberger
Hayes	Miller (IL)	Spartz

Stansbury	Titus	Waltz
Stanton	Tlaib	Wasserman
Staubert	Tokuda	Schultz
Steel	Tonko	Waters
Stefanik	Torres (CA)	Watson Coleman
Steil	Torres (NY)	Weber (TX)
Stevens	Trahan	Webster (FL)
Stewart	Trone	Wenstrup
Strickland	Turner	Westerman
Strong	Underwood	Wexton
Swalwell	Valadao	Wild
Sykes	Van Drew	Williams (GA)
Takano	Van Duyne	Williams (NY)
Tenney	Van Orden	Wilson (FL)
Thanedar	Vargas	Wilson (SC)
Thompson (CA)	Vasquez	Wittman
Thompson (MS)	Veasey	Womack
Thompson (PA)	Velázquez	Yakym
Tiffany	Wagner	Zinke
Timmons	Walberg	

NOT VOTING—15

Allred	Casas	LaMalfa
Beatty	Cuellar	Pence
Bergman	Garcia (IL)	Steube
Blumenauer	Gonzalez,	Williams (TX)
Buchanan	Vicente	
Carter (TX)	Grijalva	

□ 1854

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 94.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen weather causing flight cancellations, I was unable to be present today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 94.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 70

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mr. Issa, Mr. Buck, Mr. Gaetz, Mr. Johnson of Louisiana, Mr. Biggs, Mr. McClintock, Mr. Tiffany, Mr. Massie, Mr. Roy, Mr. Bishop of North Carolina, Mrs. Spartz, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Bentz, Mr. Cline, Mr. Gooden of Texas, Mr. Van Drew, Mr. Nehls, Mr. Moore of Alabama, Mr. Kiley, Ms. Hageman, Mr. Moran, Ms. Lee of Florida, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Fry.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY: Mr. Jordan, Mr. Turner, Mr. Gosar, Ms. Foxx, Mr. Grothman, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Higgins of Louisiana, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Biggs, Ms. Mace, Mr. LaTurner, Mr. Fallon, Mr. Donalds, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Perry, Mr. Timmons, Mr. Burchett, Mrs. Greene of Georgia, Mrs. McClain, Mrs. Boebert, Mr. Fry, Mrs. Luna, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Langworthy, Mr. Burlison.

Ms. STEFANIK. (During the reading.) Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND RANKING A MEMBER ON A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 71

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Ms. Lofgren, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Cicilline, Mr. Swalwell, Mr. Lieu, Ms. Jayapal, Mr. Correa, Ms. Scanlon, Mr. Neguse, Mrs. McBath, Ms. Dean of Pennsylvania, Ms. Escobar, Ms. Ross, Ms. Bush, Mr. Ivey.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY: Ms. Norton, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Connolly, Mr. Krishnamoorthi, Mr. Khanna, Mr. Mfume, Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, Ms. Porter, Ms. Bush, Mr. Gomez, Ms. Brown, Ms. Stansbury, Mr. Robert Garcia of California, Mr. Frost, Ms. Balint, Ms. Lee of Pennsylvania, Mr. Casar, Ms. Crockett, Mr. Goldman of New York, Mr. Moskowitz.

*Resolved*, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, ranked as follows on the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Mr. Torres of New York (to rank immediately after Ms. Tlaib).

Mr. AGUILAR (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1900

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE UNITED STATES GROUP OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's ap-

pointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Members on the part of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly:

Mr. GUTHRIE of Kentucky  
Mr. DUNN of Florida  
Mr. BERGMAN of Michigan  
Mrs. WAGNER of Missouri  
Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania  
Mr. MCCORMICK of Georgia

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DICK FLOOD

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Dick Flood, or as many residents of the First District knew him, "Okefenokee Joe."

Flood was a singer, songwriter, entertainer, environmentalist, and in the south of Georgia, a local legend.

Okefenokee Joe lived in the Okefenokee Swamp for 10 years, learning firsthand about plants and animals in the area. He was well known to Georgia public broadcast viewers for his 1988 documentary, "The Joy of Snakes."

Flood also hosted the Emmy Award-winning Georgia Public Broadcast Television documentary, "Swampwise."

In the 1950s and 1960s, he wrote numerous songs for popular country music musicians.

This loss will be felt by all of us in the First District, and particularly for those that live in and around the Okefenokee Swamp.

On a personal note, when I was dating my wife, we went to see Okefenokee Joe at the Okefenokee Swamp, and I will never forget that.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Flood's family.

#### REPUBLICAN PLANS TO ENACT A 30 PERCENT SALES TAX

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to criticize the Republican plan to enact a 30 percent sales tax. This move would cost American families millions of dollars with higher prices for food and household necessities, and it would provide millions to the already wealthiest 1 percent of Americans.

Remember when many of these House Republicans were running for office? They claimed to make inflation and other economic factors their number one priority. Instead, their priority has been to make it easier to mislead the American people, stock committees with people who want to overthrow the country and increase prices on everything from gasoline to groceries to punish working-class Americans.

Thankfully, we have a Democratic Senate to shut down these abuses of power and protect the American people.

#### RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS FOR THE YMCA OF CENTRE COUNTY'S ANTI-HUNGER PROGRAM

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Alpha Fire Company in State College and the Logan Fire Company in Bellefonte as well as their volunteers who collected community donations for the YMCA of Centre County's Anti-Hunger Program.

Mr. Speaker, these volunteers collected community donations of shelf-stable food totaling more than 24,000 pounds during a 4-hour "Canuary Food Drive" on Saturday at four Centre County Weis Markets locations.

Neighbors helping neighbors strengthens our community. As we continue to see rising food costs and record inflation, more and more families are turning to local food banks for food assistance.

The idea of "Canuary" started at the Port Matilda Elementary School but quickly became a large-scale community effort as volunteers from all over the area started offering to help.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who served for decades as a volunteer firefighter, I am happy to see the support they continue to provide to the community.

The "Canuary" Food Drive will aid in the effort and continues through the remainder of the month, with many churches, businesses, schools, offices, and student groups participating.

Congratulations on a successful weekend food drive.

#### IN MEMORY OF HILDA BEATRICE MACFARLAND

(Mr. VARGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hilda Beatrice MacFarland.

Hilda was born in National City, California, in 1949. She was a pioneer and a trailblazing woman in the 1970s when the Mexican-American community was still relying on demonstration politics.

Hilda worked for Housing and Urban Development, and she managed the senior citizen building Horton House in San Diego. She was heavily involved with countless nonprofit organizations where she fought for the poor, working-class, and elderly rights in the county.

In 1976, Hilda was the first major contributor to La Gloria Infantil Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico, and spent her entire life providing services to the orphanage.



She was a heroic woman who stood up for education and human rights. She helped her community with the entirety of her heart and soul. With her strong and genuine spirit, she stood up for the disenfranchised, the abandoned, and the injured wherever she was.

Hilda was loved by many and influenced so many of us. Her accomplishments and contributions to the community were profound, and she will be sorely missed.

#### CONGRATULATING THE MISHAWAKA CAVEMEN

(Mr. YAKYM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a special group of Hoosiers who recently made their hometown very proud.

Earlier this month, the Mishawaka Cavemen won the 3A State title in wrestling for the fourth time in school history. Their return as State champions was 13 years in the making for the Cavemen, and it wasn't easy.

To take home the title, the Cavemen first had to go through the defending State champs, Columbus East, which they did on their way to an exhilarating 43-31 win.

As Head Coach Steve Sandefer said: "You have to wrestle for the guy next to you." I think that is the kind of team-first mindset that every wrestler embraced wholeheartedly. It is a big part of why they and the Mishawaka community are celebrating. I know it is an attitude that will serve these young men well in their future careers and family lives.

I know one more thing. That approach of rallying to pick up a teammate when they are down is something that our country could use a whole lot more of.

Congratulations to Coach Sandefer, his dedicated staff, and all the wrestlers on their big win.

God bless you. Go Cavemen.

#### THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE DOWN ON THE GOVERNMENT

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of North Carolina's First Congressional District.

Right now, the American people are down on the government and tired of the politics of division.

When I am at home in the district, I am reminded that there is still hope for the future, for the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, eastern North Carolinians are tired of what they see in Washington. They want us, Democrats and Republicans, to do right by them, to find solutions to the most pressing issues being discussed at the dinner table.

Mr. Speaker, I will do just that. I will fight to ensure those who fought to defend our freedoms do not have to fight their country to survive. I will fight to ensure our families and farmers are better connected, because they, too, deserve every resource to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I will fight to ensure our most vulnerable communities have access to affordable healthcare. We owe it to our communities. We must act together.

#### TAX RELIEF FOR FAMILIES

(Mr. LAWLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to bring this body's attention to the urgent need to provide tax relief for families in districts like mine.

Folks in the Hudson Valley are facing an affordability crisis due to record inflation, skyrocketing energy costs, and the arbitrary cap on State and local taxes, otherwise known as SALT, placed on residents of States like New York in 2017.

It effectively leads to double taxation in a part of our country which already pays among the highest taxes in the Nation. In Rockland and Westchester Counties, for instance, we pay the highest property taxes in the country, averaging well over \$10,000.

That is why I have introduced legislation, with bipartisan support of my colleagues Representatives D'ESPOSITO and SHERILL, to begin to address this. The SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act would correct the flaw created by the original SALT cap that penalizes married couples filing jointly by lifting their deduction to \$20,000 rather than \$10,000. This small change would significantly help families in my district and across the country.

Ultimately, we need to repeal this arbitrary cap in full, but in the meantime, we can take concrete steps to provide hardworking taxpayers in New York and across the country real tax relief.

#### SUPPORTING THE GREAT LAKES

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative for the First District of Indiana, I rise today to express my appreciation for the provisions in the fiscal year 2023 omnibus bill that support the Great Lakes.

As the largest body of freshwater in the world, the Great Lakes and the Lake Michigan shoreline in northwest Indiana powered our Nation's industrial revolution and steel production capabilities, and today we continue to harness our region's environmental wonders to grow our economy.

I am grateful that the 2023 omnibus bill included robust funds for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, my Com-

munity Project Funding request to improve our shoreline and the Michigan City Harbor, as well as the provisions championed by my friend, Representative MARCY KAPTUR, to establish the Great Lakes Authority.

As we move forward, I look forward to continuing to work through the appropriations process to support the economic strength and environmental protection of Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes.

#### THE SCOURGE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of the scourge of human trafficking and its impact on children.

It is well known that human trafficking is more profitable than drug trafficking because the vicious cycle of using someone over and over again is both profitable and obviously devastating for that human being.

In children and youth, they are used for sex trafficking. It is well known that you are apt to be trafficked from your school, from your primary or secondary school, online.

So I have introduced H.R. 30. I ask my colleagues to join me in the Stop Human Trafficking in School Zones Act, in which I am joined by my colleague, Congressman McCAUL, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

We have seen human trafficking go beyond the borders of this Nation. It is international. It is dastardly, as I said. It is in airports. It is in bathrooms in public transit places.

I want to congratulate the NTZ operation in my own community that has stopped human trafficking at sports arenas.

Let's protect children. Join H.R. 30, the Stop Human Trafficking in School Zones Act.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-252. A letter from the Associate Administrator, National Organic Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Organic Program (NOP); Strengthening Organic Enforcement

[Doc. No.: AMS-NOP-17-0065; NOP-17-02] (RIN: 0581-AD09) received January 20, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-253. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRL/O, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Expanding TRICARE Access to Care in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic [Docket ID: DoD-2021-HA-0015 RIN: 0720-AB85] received January 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-254. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's joint final rule — Community Reinvestment Act Regulations Asset-Size Thresholds [Regulation BB; Docket No.: R-1795] (RIN: 3064-AF87) received January 13, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-255. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Standards for Safeguarding Customer Information (RIN: 3084-AB35) received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-256. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Air-Cooled, Three-Phase, Small Commercial Package Air Conditioning and Heating Equipment With a Cooling Capacity of Less Than 65,000 Btu/h and Air-Cooled, Three-Phase, Variable Refrigerant Flow Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps With a Cooling Capacity of Less Than 65,000 Btu/h [EERE-2017-BT-TP-0031] (RIN: 1904-AE06) received January 17, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-257. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Single Package Vertical Air Conditioners and Single Package Vertical Heat Pumps [EERE-2017-BT-TP-0020] (RIN: 1904-AD94) received January 17, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-258. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Warm Air Furnaces [EERE-2019-BT-STD-0042] (RIN: 1905-AE59) received January 17, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-259. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program; Addition of Uterine Cancer to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions [Docket No.: CDC-2022-0052; NIOSH-347] (RIN: 0920-AA82) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-260. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluridone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0787; FRL-10504-01-OCSPP] received January 17, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-261. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Colorado; Delegation of Authority of the Federal Plan for Existing Hospital, Medical, Infectious Waste Incinerators [EPA-R08-OAR-2022-0929; FRL-10462-02-R8] received January 17, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-262. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Finding of Failure To Submit State Implementation Plan Revisions Required Under Clean Air Act Section 185; California; Sacramento Metro Area [EPA-R09-OAR-2022-0962; FRL-10505-01-R9] received January 17, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-263. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Base Year Emissions Inventory and Emissions Statement Rule for the 2015 Ozone Standard [EPA-R05-OAR-2020-0730; EPA-R05-OAR-2020-0731; FRL-9746-02-R5] received January 17, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-264. A letter from the Program Analyst, International Bureau — Satellite Policy Branch, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Space Innovation [IB Docket No.: 22-271]; Mitigation of Orbital Debris in the New Space Age [IB Docket No.: 18-313] received January 17, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-265. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.622(j), Table of TV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Chicago, Illinois) [MB Docket No.: 22-456] received January 17, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-266. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.622(j), Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Memphis, Tennessee) [MB Docket No.: 22-146] (RM-11925) received January 17, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-267. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.622(j), Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Norwell, Massachusetts) [MB Docket No.: 22-376] (RM-11934) received January 17, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-268. A letter from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security

Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendments to Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications [PS Docket No.: 15-80]; Improving 911 Reliability [PS Docket No.: 13-75]; New Part 4 of Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications [ET Docket No.: 04-35] received January 17, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-269. A letter from the Chief, Revenue and Receivables, Financial Operations, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of the Schedule of Applications Fees Set Forth in Sections 1.1102 through 1.1109 of the Commission's Rules [MD Docket No.: 20-270] received January 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-270. A letter from the Program Analyst, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau et al., Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules [WP Docket No.: 07-100] received January 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-271. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's policy statement — Policy Statement of the Federal Trade Commission on Rebates and Fees in Exchange for Excluding Lower-Cost Drug Products received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-272. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 1.80(b) of the Commission's Rules Annual Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties To Reflect Inflation [DA 22-1356] received January 17, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-273. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's notice — Adjustments to Civil Monetary Penalty Amounts [Release Nos.: 33-11143; 34-96605; IA-6212; IC-34797] received January 13, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-274. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1574; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01362-T; Amendment 39-22274; AD 2022-25-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-275. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1657; Project Identifier AD-2022-01475-T; Amendment 39-22292; AD 2022-27-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-276. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1658; Project

Identifier MCAI-2022-01597-R; Amendment 39-22293; AD 2022-27-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-277. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG (Type Certificate previously held by Rolls-Royce plc) Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1649; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01206-E; Amendment 39-22284; AD 2022-26-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-278. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0465; Project Identifier AD-2022-00330-R; Amendment 39-22288; AD 2022-27-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-279. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. FAA-2022-1355; Amdt. Nos.: 21-106, 23-65, 25-146, 29-58, 33-1, 36-32, 47-32, 49-11, 60-7, 61-151, 67-22, 73-1, 91-366, 97-1339, 101-9, 107-10, 121-387, 125-72, 129-54, 135-143, 141-24, 183-18, 440-6] (RIN: 2120-AL53) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-280. A letter from the Senior Attorney, Office of the Chief Counsel, Regulatory Affairs, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Editorial Corrections and Clarifications [Docket No.: PHMSA-2021-0091 (HM-260B)] (RIN: 2137-AF56) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-281. A letter from the Senior Attorney, Office of the Chief Counsel, Regulatory Affairs, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Enhanced Safety Provisions for Lithium Batteries Transported by Aircraft (FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018) [Docket No.: PHMSA-2016-0014 (HM-224I)] (RIN: 2137-AF20) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. STANTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. SMUCKER):

H.R. 617. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to deem foods containing xylitol as misbranded unless the label or labeling of such foods contains a

warning specifying the toxic effects of xylitol for dogs if ingested, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 618. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 619. A bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 620. A bill to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer's Project Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BAIRD (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mr. GUEST):

H.R. 621. A bill to prevent the theft of catalytic converters and other precious metal car parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. CASTEN):

H.R. 622. A bill to increase the number of Members of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 623. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the implementation of curricula for training students, teachers, and school personnel to understand, recognize, prevent, and respond to signs of human trafficking and exploitation in children and youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 624. A bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to authorize compensation for victims of illicit fentanyl poisoning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. KILMER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. PORTER, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. EVANS, Ms. CHU, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BLUNT ROCHSTER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SWALLOW, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CORREA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CROW, Mr.

PAYNE, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. NADLER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CASE, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. BROWN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TRONE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. LIEU, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HIMES, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SABLAN, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. BERA, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 625. A bill to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 626. A bill to advance commonsense policy priorities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, Science, Space, and Technology, Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, Oversight and Accountability, Financial Services, Agriculture, House Administration, the Judiciary, Small Business, Homeland Security, Rules, Ethics, the Budget, Foreign Affairs, Intelligence (Permanent Select), Armed Services, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FALLON:

H.R. 627. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to prohibit an individual from registering to vote in elections for Federal office held in the State unless the individual provides documentary proof that the individual is a citizen of the United States; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GIMENEZ:

H.R. 628. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize the South Florida Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself and Mr. BRECHEN):

H.R. 629. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for State approval and implementation of specified waivers under the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 630. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to establish an urban Indian organization confer policy for the Department of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. ISSA, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CLINE, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina):

H.R. 631. A bill to allow a State to submit a declaration of intent to the Secretary of

Education to combine certain funds to improve the academic achievement of students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CARL, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. BANKS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. PALMER, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. SANTOS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. MOONEY):

H.R. 632. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act and Public Health Service Act to improve the reporting of abortion data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ROSENDALE:

H.R. 633. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to exempt certain direct primary care arrangements from regulation as health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ROSENDALE:

H.R. 634. A bill to require the Administrator to provide certain notices to property owners when undertaking remapping in geographic areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROSENDALE:

H.R. 635. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permanently include certain HCPCS codes as telehealth services under such title, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSENDALE:

H.R. 636. A bill to establish an arbitration process pilot program as an alternative dispute resolution process for certain objections or protests to qualified forest management activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 637. A bill to direct the heads of certain departments and agencies of the Federal Government to publicly disclose all assassination records and information relevant to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Ways and Means, Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. TIFFANY):

H.R. 638. A bill to withdraw normal trade relations treatment from, and apply certain provisions of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 to, products of the People's Republic of China, and to expand the eligibility requirements for products of the People's Republic of China to receive normal trade relations treatment in the future, and for other purposes;

to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. CHU, and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 639. A bill to ensure due process protections of individuals in the United States against unlawful detention based solely on a protected characteristic; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. CHU, and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 640. A bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his contributions to civil rights, his loyalty and patriotism to the Nation, and his dedication to justice and equality; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H. Res. 70. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 71. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives and ranking a Member on a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. FALLON, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Ms. FOX, Mrs. LESKO, Mrs. STEEL, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KILEY, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. FERGUSON, and Mr. COLE):

H. Res. 72. A resolution recognizing the contributions of independent workers and contractors to the American economy; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. LESKO:

H. Res. 73. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Medicare and Social Security provide an essential benefit for current enrollees and should be strengthened for future generations; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. CHU, and Ms. MATSUI):

H. Res. 74. A resolution recognizing the importance of establishing a national "Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

### Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois introduced A bill (H.R. 641) for the relief of Reverend Olusegun Samson Olaoye; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 617.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution: The Congress shall have the Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 618.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, and for other purposes.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 619.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 620.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BAIRD:

H.R. 621.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution: "The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;" (Commerce Clause)

"The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof." (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 622.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 2, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation expands the voting membership of the U.S. House of Representatives.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 623.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 624.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 625.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 allows Congress to make all laws "which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution" any "other" powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 626.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. FALLON:

H.R. 627.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Amends the Voter Registration Act of 1993 to prohibit the registration of individuals not providing proof of United States Citizenship and applying criminal penalty for the attempt to do so.

By Mr. GIMENEZ:

H.R. 628.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, to authorize the South Florida Program

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 629.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 and Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To permit states to carry out certain demonstration projects under the Medicaid program

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 630.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution Article 1 Sections 1 and 8

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 631.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

The single subject of this legislation is:

Receipt of federal educational funds by states and reduction of federal mandates and regulations so local education agencies and schools can focus on improving educational opportunities and being more accountable and transparent to taxpayers and parents.

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 632.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Incentivize the reporting of abortion data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

By Mr. ROSENDALE:

H.R. 633.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ROSENDALE:

H.R. 634.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ROSENDALE:

H.R. 635.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. ROSENDALE:

H.R. 636.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 637.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution: The Congress shall have the Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ASSASSINATION RECORDS AND INFORMATION RELATED TO ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 638.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 689.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Specifically, prohibits detention or imprisonment based solely on an actual or perceived protected characteristic of an individual.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 640.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To honor Fred T. Korematsu with a Congressional Gold Medal

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 641.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Immigration Private Bill

### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 24: Mr. SCHWEIKERT and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 38: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 53: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BACON, and Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 82: Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. COLE, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. BROWN, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 139: Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. CARL, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 142: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 143: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 146: Mrs. MCCLAIN and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 150: Mr. BABIN and Mr. BOST.

H.R. 185: Mr. OGLES, Mr. FRY, and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 243: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 248: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 263: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 292: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. GOMEZ.

H.R. 293: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 298: Ms. PEREZ, Mr. ROSE, Mr. FRY, and Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 309: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 318: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 335: Mr. NEHLS.

H.R. 347: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 382: Mrs. CAMMACK, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. FRY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. MANN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BARR, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. HUNT, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. EZELL, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. DUARTE, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 396: Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 404: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.

H.R. 406: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. CASE.

H.R. 408: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 412: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.

H.R. 424: Mr. CAREY and Mr. JACKSON of Texas.

H.R. 435: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 453: Mr. SELF and Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 461: Ms. TENNEY, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. MANN, and Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 465: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 472: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 496: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMERE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. FRY, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 497: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 500: Ms. PEREZ, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. ROSE, Mr. GARBARINO, and Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 503: Mrs. LUNA.

H.R. 508: Mr. BURGESS, Ms. VAN DUYN, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 513: Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. LUTTRELL, and Mr. KUSTOFF.

H.R. 536: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, and Mr. SWALWELL.

H.R. 537: Ms. NORTON, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 541: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. ELLZEY.

H.R. 558: Mr. OBERNOLTE and Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 562: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 568: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 572: Mr. OWENS and Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 574: Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 582: Mr. COHEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. RYAN,

Ms. TITUS, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. EMMER, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. ROSE, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. FEENSTRA,

Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. EVANS, Ms. PORTER, Mr. ISSA, Ms. SCHOLTEN,

Mr. FULCHER, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ZINKE, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS,

Ms. CHU, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. KIM of California, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MOORE of Utah,

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. STRONG.

H.R. 584: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 592: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 603: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 607: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 615: Mr. JACKSON of Texas and Mr. MURPHY.

H.J. Res. 7: Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. FRY, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. Good of Virginia, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. YAKYM, and Mr. CRANE.

H.J. Res. 8: Mr. OGLES.

H.J. Res. 13: Mr. KEATING.

H.J. Res. 18: Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H. Con. Res. 9: Mr. ROSE, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. MILLS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FULCHER, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. BACON, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. YAKYM.

H. Con. Res. 10: Mr. STEUBE.  
H. Res. 8: Mr. MILLS and Mr. MEUSER.  
H. Res. 26: Mr. CARSON.  
H. Res. 59: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Ms. CRAIG.  
H. Res. 68: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.  
H. Res. 69: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. MANN, Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. WALTZ.

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CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. COMER

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability in H.R. 139, the Stopping Home Office Work's Unproductive Problems (SHOW UP) Act of 2023, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MRS. RODGERS

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 382, Pandemic is Over Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MRS. RODGERS

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 497, Freedom for Health Care Workers Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in H.J. Res. 7, relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of Rule XXI.